Williams’ donation makes year-round swim team possible

By Andie Chilson
Intern

What does it take to revive a swim team after 30 years of inactivity? Texas native and head of the new Highlands Swim Team, Coach Steve Hott, credits the relaunching of the team to a personal passion for the sport as well as a generous donation by Art and Angela Williams of $1.3 million.

• See SWIM TEAM page 6

A summer peak at Bust Your Butt Falls

Delicately veiled by pink mikweed which is in bloom everywhere this time of year, is an artist's view of the popular Bust Your Butt Falls on US 64 west.

Photo by Linda Barden

Human remains uncovered at Parker Meadows recreation park project

By Brittany Burns

During the grading process at Macon County’s soon-to-be new recreation complex, burial remains were uncovered, causing the development process to slow down a bit.

Macon County Board Chair Kevin Corbin announced the discovery during Tuesday night’s Highlands Playhouse, “Pippin.” Call 526-2695.

Thurs., July 10
• No movie at The Bascom this week, Will resume July 17.
Fri., July 11
• Hal Phillips on the piano at Skyline Lodge.
Sat., July 12
• The Farmer’s Market in K-H Park 9a to 1p.
• Saturdays in Pine Street Park, live music from 6-8. Featuring Dry Fire.
Sun., July 13
• Movies at Highlands Playhouse, “How to Train Your Dragon” at 6 p.m. and “Chef” at 8p
Mon. - Fri., July 14-18
• Vacation Bible School at First Baptist is from 9am to noon. Call 828-526-4153 to register.
Mon., July 14
• Movies at Highlands Playhouse, “How to Train Your Dragon” at 4 p.m. and “Chef” at 6 and 8 p.m.
Tues., July 15-16
• At the Center for Plastic Surgery, “Beauty in a Vial: Open House. Join the staff and representatives of Juvederm, Botox and Voluma, 10a to 4p.
Wed., July 16
• Interlude concert at the Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. featuring Mary Ann Hill, Soprano; Kristen Horlitz, Flute; Josh Horlitz, Violin; Robert Henry, Piano.

Scaly Mtn. residents not happy with PO decision

By Barbara Lawrence

More than 70 people from the Scaly Mountain community turned out July 2 to hear about the future of their Post Office.

On hand were Post Office officials, Clara Deaver, Acting Post Office Operating Manager for North Carolina, and Paul Druskus, Manager of Asheville City Station. They were there to discuss the results of the survey which was sent to all Scaly Mountain residents.

Deaver opened with the announcement that the Scaly Mountain Post Office would not close but a reduction in hours was probable.

Many residents were unhappy with the survey because there wasn’t an option on it to leave the post office operating as it is now and so they think the survey results don’t accurately depict Scaly Mountain residents.

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• See SCALY MTN page 14

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Thurs., July 10
• No movie at The Bascom this week, Will resume July 17.
Fri.-Sun., July 11-13
• Hal Phillips on the piano at Skyline Lodge.
Fri., July 11
• At the Highlands Nature Center, “Salamander Meander” at 9 pm, ages 7 – adult.
• Live Birds of Prey at Cliffside Lake at 11 a.m., $4 per vehicle. No pets.
• Friday Night Live music in Town Square from 6-8. Featuring Dry Fire.
Sat., July 12
• The Farmer’s Market in K-H Park 9a to 1p.
• Saturdays in Pine Street Park, live music from 6-8. Featuring Hobohemians.
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To frack or not to frack, that is the question…and it’s not a simple one

In May the NC legislature passed the Energy Modernization Act. This piece of legislation, which took only one month to clear both houses and get the governor’s signature, lifts the state’s moratorium on hydraulic fracking for oil and natural gas. Some critics, as well as some advocates, say it was a critical piece of legislation that was “fast tracked” through the legislative process. Our state senator, Jim Davis, co-sponsored the bill.

The schedule for implementation is already in process with public hearings being held this summer concerning the rules to be written for fracking. The rules, which will be drafted by the Energy and Mining Commission, will be completed by January, 2015, and permits will be issued starting in May, 2015. Between January and May there will be some form of legislative review of the proposed rules.

James Womack is the chairman of this commission. His email is, commissioner.womack@gmail.com. Three public hearings on fracking rules have been set. The first is August 13 in Raleigh at 10am, followed by an August 22 hearing in Stanford at 5pm. The final one is on August 25 in Reidsville at 5pm. The problem for folks in Western Carolina is that all these hearing are hours away. There is an effort to convince the commission to hold one more hearing at a location such as Western Carolina University.

I have been in contact with several mayors in our area. We all share concerns about the fracking process and how it could impact communities. For instance, the law clearly states that municipalities cannot pass zoning laws, or ordinances, that would prohibit fracking within a town’s limits. I would like to see changes made, especially for this provision in the law.

Dear Editor,

In his letter published July 3, Al Olinde takes Fred “Woodridge” [sic] to task because of Fred’s only reference to the current, occasional, occupant of the White House, to wit: “I can’t stop wondering if every time I listen to the President give one of his many, bla bla speeches, is he breathing through his Hanes or what?”

To Olinde, this constitutes making “foul remarks” and that Fred has thereby failed to respect the President and his office.

Of course, one must respect the office, but not necessarily an individual who secured the office.

Olinde also asserts that “our national debt is still high but is less than when President Bush was in office.” Olinde somehow ignores the fact that the national debt at the end of the 2008 fiscal year was $10,025 trillion and by the end of the 3d quarter FY 2013 was $16,913 trillion.

The good doctor heaps praise on Obama for “getting our boys home from two wars that we had no business being in.” Of course, the way President Obama managed that was by turning Reagan’s approach on its head. That is, when asked what to do about the Cold War, Reagan replied, “we win.” President Obama’s was “we lose.” He ensured that we forfeit the war in Afghanistan by announcing to the enemy that we would leave by a date certain, and the war in Iraq by deliberately failing to secure a Status of Forces agreement. (Obama claims that the Iraqis refused to sign a SOF agreement-- another lie. The Maliki government agreed, but the Administration insisted that the Iraqi Parliament ratify the agreement, even though few of our current SOF agreements were ratified by the host governments’ legislatures.)

Olinde also chooses to ignore Obama’s repeated refusal to discharge his Constitutional duty “to take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed...” (Article II, Section 3). He constantly rewrites Obama by ignoring the plain words of that abysmal statute and, by his refusal to enforce our immigration laws and by hinting that anyone who can get here by hook or by crook will be permitted to stay, has invited the current invasion of our country by hordes of diseased children.

Space does not permit extended reference to Obama’s Nixonian use of the IRS to harass political enemies and other things; Fred’s off-hand and humorous musings did not come close to being such “stuff.”

John Capron
Highlands

Giving credit where it is due

Dear Editor,

On July 3, 2014, the Highlands Newspaper published the article which I compiled from a variety of sources regarding the Battle of Sugartown, a little known conflict which took place in our area on September 10, 1782. Over the years, the Battle of Sugartown Chapter of the National Society, Daughters of the
Mr. Herbert Lankford Benson, whose primary residence was in Columbia, S.C., but who also owned a home in the Mirror Lake area of Highlands, died in April of 2014. His graveside memorial was conducted with full military honors, taps, flag draped coffin, etc.

After he died, the family learned details about his World War II military service. Mr. Benson never spoke much about his war experiences.

He was attached to General MacArthur’s staff as a military photographer in the South Pacific and witnessed the surrender of the Japanese on the deck of the Battleship Missouri on Sept. 2, 1945.

In the war-time photo of Mr. Benson, and a photo of U.S. Army and Navy officers conferring with Nationalist Chinese officers on the deck of the Missouri. Mr. Benson in the center of the photo directly over the left shoulder of the officer reading the agenda papers on the Japanese surrender.

American Revolution has collected a variety of information both published and unpublished about the battle. Using these accounts of this battle, I prepared the information you published and delivered it at a recent Chapter event. After seeing my account in print, it is clear to me that credits should have been given to those individuals who did the actual research and wrote those previously published accounts.

To that end, please let your readership know that information used for my description of the Battle of Sugartown was taken, in part, from the following sources: Notes about the Battle of Sugartown written by Lawrence E. Wood, descendant of Major Daniel Bryson; “Last Indian Battleground Bleak”, by John Parris, published in The Asheville Citizen, December 6, 1973; and, “Battle of Sugartown: Fiery Conflict Remembered” by Jeannie S. Jump, published in the Spring 2000 issue of Mountain Ideals.

- See LETTERS page 6
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...SWIM TEAM continued from page 1

to the Highlands Recreation Center -- $750,000 of which will be used to cover the pool.

This recent endowment provides the means for Highlands’ first ever year-round swim team. Construction for the retractable building over the pool is set to begin in the early fall of this year and conclude in May of 2015, allowing the Highlands Swim Team to begin their first-ever year-round practices in the fall of 2015.

When asked what motivated Hott to pursue swimming as more than just a recreational activity, he attributed it partly to his passion for working with kids. He believes the team also serves as a preventative safety and health measure. “A leading cause of death in children under the age of 5 is drowning,” he said.

The swim team provides Highlands families with a fun, safe way to acquire some water skills over the summer. Hott feels strongly that childhood obesity is a major issue in the United States, and swimming is one of many fun, active solutions. In addition to offering the children of Highlands a fun way to cool down and stay in shape, Coach Hott also believes that it instills the value of teamwork in the squad’s 26 members.

Although the new team has received an abundance of support and acclamations, there are those who feel that the introduction of a new sport as an option during the school year will take away from those sports already in existence in Highlands schools. But Coach Hott believes

• See SWIM TEAM page 9

...LETTERS from page 3

We are very pleased that you brought the Battle of Sugartown to the attention of your readership and hope it will spark interest in learning more about the American Revolution, particularly as it relates to Western North Carolina. There are numerous grave sites of Revolutionary War Patriots in publicly accessible graveyards scattered around Macon County. The service and devotion to our freedom of these Patriots should never be forgotten.

With Sincere thanks,

Shelah Portoukalian, Regent
Battle of Sugartown Chapter
National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution
Franklin, NC
Since I write so much fiction and as incredible as it may seem, every single word in this column is the truth to the best of my knowledge.

For years I didn’t believe in stupid stuff like guardian angels. Cops just don’t believe in such nonsense. We’re too practical and besides, that was for more religious folks who wore holes in the knees of their pants from the pews. It was similar to believing in the tooth fairy. But that was then. I’m now a believer…a huge believer. How else could I not only still be breathing but also flourishing?

I don’t know if guardian angels have a gender but if they do I’m sure mine is a male angel. Only a male angel could fully understand and tolerate my nonsense and bad-boy behavior. A female angel just might….well, let me fall all the way. But not my angel; he lets me stumble a little to teach a lesson but catches me just in time….almost every time…..actually every time!

A best friend and fellow police officer once said, “Fred, you’ve been from the White House to the sh-- house more times than anyone on the police department.” He was right because I always seemed to be in either “serious trouble” mode or “can do no wrong” mode most of my 28-year police tenure. There was never an in-between. Fortunately, I was in “can do no wrong” mode most of my career. But I still didn’t believe in silly stuff like guardian angels.

Even after a guy shoved a .25 caliber automatic pistol in my stomach and pulled the trigger, I still didn’t believe. Some of those models had been recalled by Smith and Wesson for faulty springs in the firing pin mechanisms but the stolen weapon that should have killed me had not been sent back for repair.

Later, a guy from the Dade County Crime Lab called and said, “You’re the luckiest SOB on the planet. We found a strike mark on the back of the casing where the firing pin struck, but not hard enough to set off the round. Since then, we’ve test fired that weapon 10 times and all 10 rounds discharged. I just can’t believe it, Fred, you’re the luckiest SOB I’ve ever known.” Still, I didn’t believe in guardian angels.

Wait, there’s more. Working undercover, my partner and I went into a South Beach bar known to sell narcotics. He wound up getting hit in the head with a hammer, was knocked unconscious and bleeding badly. After he went to the hospital, I went ballistic and tore up the entire bar, breaking almost every liquor bottle in the place. The police department suspended me for 30 days for misconduct, the maximum an officer can be suspended without getting fired. This most definitely would be a heavy lift for my guardian angel. Yes, the one I still didn’t believe in.

Since the incident happened during the summer months, I used my time on suspension and took my lil’ missus and our three small children to Highlands where I worked on finishing our cabin down on Clear Creek Road. But I knew if I even committed a minor infraction within a one-year period, I was gone….toast….kaput. Now that scared me. I can remember one of my undercover partners telling me, “Man, you better be livin’ at the foot of the cross.” Well, guess what? My guardian angel….yes, the one I still didn’t believe in, came to my rescue.

After my suspension period, I returned to work, hired an attorney I knew well and we appealed the suspension. The attorney and I were friends because I unwittingly supplied him with an endless amount of dope dealers I had arrested. He had a reputation and drug dealers knew he was the guy to hire to best get them off. The guy was brilliant.

After none of the witnesses from the bar could identify me at the hearing, the suspension was reversed and my backpack restored. Everything was erased. And are you ready for this? The lawyer handled the matter without charge. And still, ole hard-headed Fred didn’t believe in guardian angels and chalked it all up to dumb luck.

I’ve only mentioned the major events during my police career where my angel saved my butt. There are literally scores of more minor events on and off-the-job where I was rescued. It seemed that every time I reached a life-changing crossroads, I made the right decision. How is that possible? I’m successful in spite of myself. There’s not enough room in this newspaper to list them all. And still, when I retired in ’89, I didn’t believe in guardian angels.

For years I didn’t believe in guardian angels. Cops just don’t believe in such nonsense. We’re too practical and besides, that was for more religious folks who wore holes in the knees of their pants from the pews. It was similar to believing in the tooth fairy. But that was then. I’m now a believer…a huge believer. How else could I not only still be breathing but also flourishing?

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There is also a strong concern about safeguards to protect underground and surface water resources. Fracking requires the use of substantial amounts of water that is mixed with other chemicals. Under the new law, drilling companies have no public disclosure requirements for the chemicals used in fracking. In fact, if someone were to disclose what chemicals a drilling company was using, they could be charged with a Class I felony. This provision is in the bill.

A real concern for towns relying on surface water sources is that some of this chemical water mixture regurgitates back to the surface in the drilling process. If not contained and disposed of in an environmentally safe manner, water sources could be jeopardized.

There are also environmental concerns about the impact of infrastructure needed for transporting natural gas once is has been retrieved. The new infrastructure would involve new easements for pipelines, new road construction and additional stress on existing roads. Western Carolina relies on tourism, so how to create a balance between these two industries may be a significant challenge.

Now I have identified only a few concerns about this emerging era of North Carolina fracking. This summer the NC Department of Transportation will be taking rock samples from road projects in Western Carolina. Apparently, if there is the right carbon content in the samples it will indicate possible natural gas reserves below. This sampling process may reveal there is very little natural gas in “these here mountains,” or it may reveal just the opposite. I suspect, the middle and eastern part of the state will be the primary focus of the drilling companies. The fracking bill even allows off shore exploration.

I said at the beginning of this piece, it isn’t a simple question. For instance, we all want cheap, affordable and clean energy. Natural gas can help meet these needs. Duke Energy is moving away from coal and all the related environmental problems. They are now firing their plants, wherever they can, with less costly, cleaner natural gas. Our state has a limited pipeline system to transport natural gas to power plants. New sources within the state could help Duke bring natural gas to their plants, thus helping to contain constantly rising electric rates.

Proponents of hydraulic fracking also emphasize its benefit to the state as a job creating industry. On the other hand, opponents of current energy systems stress we should seek alternative technologies. There are several problems with these new technologies. Many of these emerging technologies have not been proven on a large scale. Alternatives, such as wind and solar, have their own environmental and aesthetic issues. All these alternatives would take substantial investments in start up costs that might offset any cost savings in the near term.

So, to frack or not to frack, that is the question. Can we find a balance? What compromises are we willing to make to live the good life that abundant energy provides? There is no panacea, just hard questions and problems to be solved.

• See NC legislature approves fracking bill in the June 12th edition of Highlands Newspaper at www.highlandsinfo.com. Click on Local News and scroll down to archives.
for those athletes who haven't found their niche in dry land sports, swimming may be the perfect solution.

“The swim team will add and take away—some students will have to choose, most sports are based on how fast you can run—swimming is an exception,” he said.

Although the year-round swim team will inevitably pose the difficult decision of choosing swimming over other athletics for many of the young, gifted Highlands athletes, the summer swim team serves as a way for winter and spring athletes to maintain their strong physical condition over the summer.

The growing 32-member team has surpassed its original goal of 24 swimmers, ranging in age from 4 to 16 years. With those numbers and a rigorous practice schedule of five hour and a half sessions a week, it is no wonder that head Coach Hott has three assistant coaches to help him take on this daunting task. Among them are Patrick Leonard, Gill Stose, and Tay Bronaugh.

The team’s intensive training is all in preparation for upcoming competitions.

...FREDSTER continued from page 7

Then in September of 2011, I awoke from a deep sleep and could not walk from my bed to the kitchen without hanging on to something. Hours later I seemed better and figured it was just an ear infection. I continued to get better but something was not right. I was walking funky.

After an MRI, my neurosurgeon shook her head in disbelief, “Fred, you’re a very lucky man. You’ve had a grand total of three significant strokes, none of which were TIA’s, but only the last one landed in a place that affects balance. The other two clots were in unimportant parts of your brain. (I guess I have a lot of those.) Once again, you’re a very lucky man. With practice, you can overcome the feeling of imbalance. I’m guessing you have another 20 years if you do what you’re told.”

The following year, a good friend who knows my history said, “Fred, your guardian angel must be exhausted from trying to keep you alive. Why don’t you give him a break?” I laughed.

That same week, in the quiet of the morning just before dawn, while sipping coffee and listening to the patter of steady rain on the roof of our mountain home, I had an experience that some would call “an awakening.” Somehow I came to know I really do have some kind of a spiritual being watching over me. Blaming dumb luck for my entire life was not the answer. Acknowledging I have a guardian angel has brought an inner peace to my life I can’t explain but it feels good….real good!

Well, I’m back to playing pickle ball several times a week (don’t ask) and I walk with the li’l missus when not on the court. I’m functioning well with my damaged brain and with my guardian angel at my side keeping me balanced. I will admit to slowing down a little. Thank you, Mr. Guardian Angel, whoever or wherever you are! God must be so pleased with you. I certainly am.

• Have you read Fred’s two books titled, “Deceived and I’m Moving Back to Mars.”
Virtual Tour Can Equal Success

When it comes to selling your home, a virtual tour can equal selling success. Many buyers start their real estate search online these days and photos play a very important role in the process. Great photos can reel people in while poor quality photos can keep potential buyers from wanting to step foot in your home. Take the time not only to acquire great photos of your home, but to also prepare your home for the photos. Ask your Realtor® to provide an experienced stager for your home and also for professional photographs. An expert real estate broker will pay for these expenses for these services when your property is listed. Their knowledge and experience can work to your advantage to get your home sold in a timely manner while capturing as close to asking price as possible.

The stager can help you prepare your home for photo and video. It is essential that it is clean and well appointed. Arrange furniture in such a way that a living room does not appear too cluttered for example and be certain that no extras are hanging around, like toys, piles of magazines, glasses and the like. The more polished each room appears the better your photos will be. The following is how to “Prepare Your Home for a Virtual Tour” from Realtor Magazine for great tips on how to best prepare your home for its photo shoot.

1. Understand the camera’s perspective. The camera’s eye is very different from the human eye. It magnifies clutter and poor furniture arrangement. To make a home shine in a virtual tour or video presentation, cater to the lens.

2. Make the home “Q-tip clean.” Because the camera magnifies grime, each room must be spotless. Don’t forget floor coverings and walls; a discolored spot on the rug might be overlooked by prospects during a regular home showing, but that stain becomes a focal point for online viewers.

3. Pack up the clutter. But leave three items of varying heights on each surface. For example, on an end table you can place a lamp (high), a small plant (medium), and a book (low).

4. Snap pictures. This will give you an idea of what the home will look like on camera. Closely examine the photos and list changes that would improve each room’s appearance: opening blinds to let in natural light, removing magnets from the refrigerator, or taking down distracting art.

5. Pare down furniture. Identify one or two pieces of furniture that can be removed from each room to make the space appear larger.

6. Rearrange. Spotlight the flow of a space by creating a focal point on the furthest wall from the doorway and arranging the other pieces of furniture to make a triangle shape. The focal point may be a bed in a bedroom or a china cabinet in a dining room.

7. Re-accessorize. Include a healthy plant in every room; the camera loves green. Energize bland decor by placing a bright vase on a mantel or draping an afghan over a couch.

8. Keep the home in shape. You want buyers who liked what they saw online to encounter the same home in person.

Lynn Kimball
lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com
828-421-8193

Falling Waters is a 52 acre community just 2.5 miles from Main St. Secluded but not remote; peaceful, quiet and private. Mature hardwoods, giant Rhodies, Mountain Laurel and a plethora of wild flowers that take turns showing off thru the seasons. Two waterfalls & several creeks add charm & interest. Paved roads, underground utilities, newer homes built after 2000, no road noise, well maintained, a great place to take a walk!

Two lots sold this winter and a year round home is being built ... New cottage section opening soon!

Welcome...Come Visit.

GPS Address: 78 Black Bear Trace Highlands, NC 28741
From Main St., take Hwy. 106 (The Dillard Road) 1.8 miles just past the Glen Falls sign, turn right on Mt. Laurel Dr., go 3 tenths of a mile turn left on Moonlight. The entrance is on the right.

www.highlandsnchomesites.com
Contact (onsite owner) or your broker for plats, prices & a guided tour:
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OPEN HOUSE
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101 Potter Lane

5 bedroom, 5 1/2 bath home with extensive landscaping, recirculating water feature with small pond. Quality finishes with extensive trims and elegant antiqued black hardwood floors. Large room spaces. 3 living room areas and 2 kitchens, 3 gas fireplaces and 2 wood-burning fireplaces.

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Directions: Hwy 106 South past Highlands Country Club, turn right onto Potter Lane to the 4th house on the right.

MC Board of Education Candidates
District 2
Incumbent Tommy Cabe
Billy Taylor
District 4
Frederick Goldsmith
Marvin Poindexter
MC Soil and Water Conservation
James Roper
Pamela Bell

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Parker Meadows did not appear to have any Native American remains and the project and development of the area was approved by officials with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI). Having an archeologist on site was precautionary and not required, but something Macon County officials wanted to do out of respect for the EBCI.

The remains included what appeared to be teeth and a few dark spots found in what appeared to be the shape of a grave. The remains may not be Native American; instead something from early settlers, Macon County contacted the EBCI and met with Chief Michell Hicks in his office in Cherokee on Monday.

“We wanted to be careful and be sure that we respect the culture and heritage of the Tribe,” said Corbin. “We wanted Chief Hicks and the Tribe to be involved in how we move forward with this find.”

Macon County Manager Derek Roland said the findings will not stop the project and informed commissioners that there are several options on how to work around the remains in a respectful manner. For one, the remains may be properly extracted or buried deeper to prevent further disturbance.

Although grading and development surrounding the location where the remains were found has ceased, construction on the rest of the property was continuing as of Tuesday.

The remains were found in what would be an outfield for one of the ball fields expecting to be developed throughout the year. While the state’s archeologist’s office conducts further investigation into the findings, the county has agreed to wait until Chief Hicks and members of the Tribe are able to visit the site for themselves, which is expected to take place at the end of next week.

Moving forward with other phases of the project, commissioners voted Tuesday night to approve a bid for $223,719.16 for fencing around the property. Out of the two bids received, the bid that was accepted came from A&T Fence, Inc, and was around $80,000 less than the second bid, which came from Asheville Fence.

The bid includes eight pairs of 20’ tall foul poles and fencing around the multipurpose court. Commissioners unanimously approved the bid, which locks in the price until the project is complete. Macon County Finance Director Lori Hall explained that even if the county doesn’t implement the fencing for a year or so, the price agreed on in the bid will still be good.
Highlands EMC’s Blue Grass Bash is July 26

Highlands Emergency Council’s (HEC) first annual Blue Grass Bash will take place at the Highlands Civic Center beginning at 5 p.m.

Runners of the Green Laurel will be the band for the evening. Some of the members of this band are also members of Nitro Grass which you may know from the Ugly Dog and a few other venues in the area.

This old Highlands evening will begin with dinner at 5 p.m. On the menu - Michael Thompson’s famous chicken and dumplings or pinto beans and cornbread, each with appropriate sides. Dinner tickets cost $8 for adults and $5 for children under 12.

A square dance/concert will start at 7 p.m. The square dance caller of the evening is Dole Calloway who for many years played music, called square dances and danced at Helen’s barn. Tickets for the concert are $10 in advance and $15 at the door. Tickets are available at the Civic Center and the Highlands Emergency Council office. Call 828-526-4357 for more information.

There will be two special up-front tables which you may reserve at the cost of $100. One is already reserved by our sponsor, Mr. Ray McPhail, whose love of bluegrass and his support of Highlands’ benefits is well known. Call 828-526-2635 to reserve.

Saratoh Fire Department auxiliary will hold a bake sale. These ladies are the queens of bake sales. Be sure to take home some delicious homemade goodies. Featured also is a local craft booth. Unique items made here on the plateau will be for sale. Three raffle items will be given during the evening. Donors for these raffle items are Bryson’s Grading, Reeves Hardware and Wilson Gas. Times for these raffles are 7:30, 8:30, and 9:30 p.m.

There will also be door prizes compliments of Freeman Gas. See you there!

hosts a non-denominational Men’s Meeting the first Monday night of each month at 7 pm and all men are invited to attend.

Tuesdays
• Community Table Dinner at the Community Building at 6 p.m. It’s free.
• Tues. & Thurs. • Aerobics at the Rec Park with Tina Rogers 5-15, $5.
• Mon., Wed., Fri. • Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.
• Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. $5.

Thursdays
• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555 Last Fri. of each month

Fri.-Sun.
• Hal Phillips on the piano at Skyline Lodge during dinner and Sunday brunch.

Fr. & Sat.
• The Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau, the conservation arm of the Laurel Garden Club, have put together an exhibit in conjunction with the Historical Society at the Museum, which you might find fascinating. It covers our plateau’s botanical history from the ice ages to the present. Please visit the Museum on Saturdays to see the display.

Saturdays
• The Farmers Market, 9a-1p in K-H Park. Organic vegetables, eggs, honey, cheeses. home-made food and hand-made items. For information call 482-0555 Maxine Davidoff.
• Cashiers Local Farmers tailgate market begins May 10 thru October at the Anglican Church Parking Lot Hwy 64 E next to Macon Bank. Contact 828-226-9988 for info.

Beginning Thurs., July 10
• Care Giver Support Group Forming ~ Sponsored by Highlands United Methodist Church and the Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Highlands, a free weekly support group will begin on Thursday at 7 pm for an hour and 15 minutes. This group meets for 8 consecutive weeks and it is not mandatory to come for each session. It will be held in the Parlor at Highlands United Methodist Church, 315 Main St., Highlands, NC, and will be led by Bonnie Gramlich, a licensed professional counselor. The purpose of the group is to support adults who are facing a loved one with physical or psychological problems. To sign up call Bonnie at 828-342-0546. Drop-ins are also welcome for any given session, but please arrive a few minutes early.

Fri., July 11
• At the Highlands Nature Center, 11th Annual “Salamander Meander” 9 pm, ages 7 – adult. Join herpetologists on a night search to observe some of the area’s magnificent salamanders in the wild. Bring a flashlight! Advanced registration required due to limited space. Call 526-2623 or visit www.highlands-biological.org for more information.
• Friday Night Live music in Town Square from 6-8. Featuring Dry Fire.

Garden Tour to benefit Episcopal Church Bell Fund

A stunning view of Shortoff Mountain is the backdrop for the gardens of Jane and Tom Tracy who have invited the public to walk the garden paths and admire the beauty of hundreds of flowers, vegetables, and native plants on their 38-acre property on Sat., July 26, at HUMC, from 2-4 p.m., there will be an Author’s Tea with fine china, silver, and fresh flowers at individually decorated tables. Carolyn Newton Curry will review her new book, Suffer and Grow Strong, A woman’s journey during the Civil War. It is the story of Ella Gertrude Clanton Thomas 1834-1907. Gertrude kept diaries and wrote of her amazing life. Donations of $20 per person will help to bring the camels and other animals to Highlands for the Christmas Parade. A limited number of tickets are available. For more information call HUMC at 325-3376 or Mary Jeffington 526-3671.

Enjoy a formal tea on July 26 and help bring the camels!

Chapter of the North Carolina Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will hold its monthly luncheon meeting at 11:30 in the Boiler Room Restaurant at 1024 Georgia Road in Franklin. All DAR members and prospective members are welcome. For further information, please contact 369-3136 or 524-2673.

Vacation Bible School at First Baptist is from 9am to noon. Call 828-526-4153 to register.

At the Center for Plastic Surgery, “Beauty in a Vial: Open House. Join the staff and representatives of Juvederm, Botox and Voluma, 10a to 4p.

The Plateau Fly Fishing Club will hold its next meeting on Tuesday at the Albert-Carleton Library in Cashiers at 7 PM and will feature speaker Ron Gaddy, owner of Jonathan Creek School of Fly Fishing and Fly Tying. Following the presentation, the Club will hold a raffle featuring a custom Jim Mills fly rod made exclusively for the Club. Everyone is welcome!

Wed., July 16
• Interlude concert at the Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. featuring Mary Ann Hill; Sopranos; Kristen Horlitz; flute; Josh Horlitz, Violin; Robert Henry, Piano.

Thurs., July 17
• “Big Fish.” Free Family Movie Night at The Bascom — rain or shine. Lawn opens at 7p; movies start at 9p. Food, wine, beer and soda, candy and popcorn available for sale. Bring blankets and or chairs.

Fri., July 18
• Romney Bathurst, board member of the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, will lead a bird walk around the Cashiers Commons Boardwalk and new Rec. Center in conjunction with Mountain Wildlife Days. Meet in Ca...
**P.E.O. Luncheon coming up July 23**

Calling all P.E.O.s, you are invited to attend the P.E.O. 2014 summer luncheon hosted by Chapter BJ, at the Cullasaja Club in Highlands on Wednesday, July 23. Registration begins at 11:30a. The cost is $28 per person and checks should be sent no later than July 15 to: Mary Ann Ray, 104 Lake Court #130, Highlands, NC. 28741. For more information, call Mary Ann at 828-526-8251.

**H-C Chamber Music for this week**

The third week of Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival's 2014 season marks the return of one of the festival's favorite quartets and a celebration of the profound ways that music and poetry intertwine.

On Friday, July 11, and Saturday, July 12, The Vega String Quartet will perform Beethoven’s “Cello Sonata in A Major, Op. 69,” Prokofiev’s “String Quartet #2,” and Glazunov’s “Cello Quintet.” The quartet will be accompanied by cellist Edward Arron and the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival’s artistic director, pianist William Ransom.

Quartet in Residence at Emory University, the Vega String Quartet is on the cutting edge of the new generation of chamber music ensembles. After their Lincoln Center debut in 2001, the New York Times raved saying “playing that had a kind of clean intoxication to it, pulling the listener along... the musicians took real risks in their music making...” and the Los Angeles Times praised their “triumphant L.A. debut.”

Cellist Edward Arron has garnered recognition worldwide for his elegant musicianship, impassioned performances, and creative programming. A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Mr. Arron has appeared in recital, as a soloist with major orchestras, and as a chamber musician throughout North America, Europe and Asia.

Pianist William Ransom, in addition to his duties as Festival Artistic Director, serves as Emory University’s Director of Piano Studies. He has performed in New York’s Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Town Hall, and Merkin Hall and in many others.

On Sunday, July 13th, and Monday, July 14th, the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival turns its attention to poetry with tenor Bradley Howard and Dr. Ransom performing Robert Schumann’s “Dichterliebe” interspersed with readings by poet Bruce Berger.

Howard Bradley serves as Director of Vocal Studies at Emory University. Bradley’s concert engagements include Beethoven’s “9th Symphony,” Andrew Lloyd Weber’s “Requiem,” Weill’s “Seven Deadly Sins,” Mozart’s “Requiem,” and Haydn’s “Creation.”

Berger poems have appeared in Poetry, Barron’s, Orion and various literary reviews in the United States, Scotland and India, and have been collected in “Facing the Music.” He is a three-time winner of the Colorado Authors’ League Award for Poetry and has been a featured poet in Light.

Concerts are held at 6 p.m. Fridays at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5 p.m. Saturdays at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library in Cashiers. Sunday concerts will be staged at 5 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5 p.m. Mondays at the Cashiers Community Library.

For more information or tickets, call (828) 526-9060. Tickets are also on sale at the venues prior to the performances.

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**Highlands Area Events**

- **This week at CLE**

  The Center for Life Enrichment has classes and lectures to engage your mind, body and spirit this month! Come learn how art stimulates our intellect with the Director of the Georgia Museum of Art, William Underwood Ellenbud, Ph.D.

  On Fri., July 11 from 1-3 p.m., a Photographic Tour of the Georgia Museum of Art will present a visual challenge of various art themes from traditional to provocative.

  On Tues., July 15 from 2-4 p.m., Allen Josephs, a world-renowned Hemingway scholar and past president of the Ernest Hemingway Foundation and Society gives us a look at Hemingway’s love of fishing, his years in Cuba and how both helped produce the Nobel Prize winning masterpiece of angling literature, “The Old Man and the Sea.”

  If you have a passion for the outdoors you will enjoy learning how the Appalachians were created and their role in local and American history in “Building the Appalachians,” on Wed., July 16, 10-noon.

  On Tues., July 22 from 6-8 p.m., The History and Significance of an American Idea discusses the conflicted attitude America has held toward wilderness, which is beautiful but also inhospitable and dangerous.

  That part of your brain that responds to music will delight in our music lectures on Thurs., July 17 10a to noon. Beethoven’s 9th Symphony: A Mega-Masterwork in a Nutshell unlocks the secrets of one of the most historically significant works of music ever composed. Using audio and video clips, we will examine the musical details of the piece.

  The Three B’s: Bach, Beethoven and Brubeck is in conjunction with the Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music Festival concerts, Friday July 18 and Saturday, July 19. “Jazz Meets Classics: Sax in the Mountains” with Emory albums Leo Saguiguiz and Will Scruggs on sax, Elena and Gary Motley on piano. Lecture is Saturday, July 19, 10-12

  On Mon., July 21 10a to noon, learn why physical inactivity is a major factor for coronary artery disease, equal to smoking, hypertension and hyperlipidemia.

  Walk-ins to lectures are welcome. For more information visit www.clehighlands.com or call 526-8811. All classes are $25 for members/$35 for non-members and are held in the CLE lecture hall unless otherwise noted.

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**P.E.O. Luncheon coming up July 23**

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**Sixteen Candles.” Free Family Movie Night at The Bascom – rain or shine. Lawn opens at 7p; movies start at 9p.**

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**Tour of Crestridge Gardens at 9, 10 and 11 a.m.. $30 per person available by phone (828-526-2968) or in person at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in High-lands, NC. First come, first served” basis. All proceeds will be used for the Outreach Ministry and Bell Tower Endowment Fund for the Church.**

- **Join the fun at the Scaly Mountain Women’s Club annual auction on Saturday at the Scaly Mountain Fire Station. Preview at 6 P.M. and Auction at 7 P.M. Admission is free and proceeds benefit scholarships for area students and a number of human service agencies.**

- **The 2014 Glenville Area Historical Society History Tour is on Saturday, from 10a to 2p. The approximately 2 ½ hour tour is self-guided with the help of a tour brochure that includes the basic story of each site, an excellent map and photos. On tour day tickets are $20 and sold from 10a to 2p at the Thorpe Powerhouse and the site of the McCoy General Store at the corner of Glenville School Road and Highway 107 North. Advance tickets can be purchased now at the Carolina Cottage in Glenville and at the Glenville Community Development Club during the tour week. Closed toe shoes are required for touring the inside of the powerhouse. For more info, email historicalsocietyglenvillearea@yahoo.com.**

- **Saturdays in Pine Street Park, live music from 6-8 p.m. Featuring Tellico.**

- **Wed., July 23**

  - Interlude concert at First Presbyterian at 2pm featuring Woori Kim and Curtis Smith, Piano Duo.

- **Thurs., July 24**

  - “Sixteen Candles.” Free Family Movie Night at The Bascom – rain or shine. Lawn opens at 7p; movies start at 9p.
Residents turn out to hear fate of Scaly Mtn. post office. Photo by Barbara Lawrence

what the residents want.

Other options were closing it and delivering mail to roadside mailboxes or closing it and contracting with a store or business to act as the post office.

“We were not given a fair option,” said Dick Lawrence. A few people shouted, “Leave things alone.”

Resident Bonnie Gramlich said due to the isolation and mountain terrain, its essential to keep the Post Office open for the current full hours of operation. Scaly Mountain resident Sandy Hall voiced his opposition to the announcement saying, “It seems a decision has already been made. Don’t play that game with us!”

Deaver gave the results of the survey. Out of 412 surveys sent, there have been 87 responses so far, and most supported the option of a reduction of hours. The Post Office proposal was for a 6-hour office day from 9:45 to 4:15 with a half-hour lunch from 12:45-1:15 p.m. The reason given for this change was due to a decline in mail, stamp sales and salary concerns. The residents were told this was an upper management decision and results of the

...SCALY MTN continued from page 1
Deaver was questioned about the transparency of decisions that were going to be made; she said this was an internal decision, and she didn't think copies of survey results were available to the public. Residents asked if the ‘Sunshine Act’ meant the public could examine decisions made. Deaver said she would pass on their concerns and said letters would also be considered in the decision. Her address is available at the Post office.

There was loud applause for the Scaly Mountain Post Office Manager Marilyn Carpenter whom everyone agreed was doing an excellent job.

Because it is such a novice group, the Highlands Swim Team is not yet part of a formal league, but will still be taking part in some competitions in the near future, the soonest being their triangular meet against the Franklin Amateur Swim Team (FAST) and the Cherokee County Aquatics Club on July 17, 2014.

The team welcomes young swimmers of all ages to join their rapidly growing squad for the price of $75 a season, $40 a month, $10 a week, or $3 a practice. Scholarships are available on a need related basis. For more information, contact Hott at 828.421.4121 or the Highlands Recreation Park at 828.526.3556.
Bobby Lewis and Christine and Michael Murphy have opened the MountainTop Wine Shoppe at 269 Oak Street where you can sample wines prior to buying by the bottle or the glass. It is open daily. 828-526-1050.

Photo by Andie Chilson

Mountains In Bloom at The Bascom this weekend

Every year, The Bascom hosts a Home, Garden, and Flower Festival, aptly named, Mountains in Bloom. This year, Mountains in Bloom has a theme of “The Private Edens of Highlands,” and offers garden tours of some of the most breathtaking homes and gardens found on the Plateau.

The weekend will kick off with a champagne luncheon featuring speaker, Jack Staub, owner of historic Hortulus Farm in Wrightstown, PA. Jack is the author of the book, Private Edens: Beautiful Country Gardens, and will take the audience on a visual tour through 21 superb country gardens across the United States.

On Friday and Saturday, July 11 and 12, ticket-buyers explore Highlands’ own private Edens during the Home and Garden Tour, featuring magnificent estates on mountain tops, in rhododendron glades, and in the clouds. Back at The Bascom, a beautiful Flower Show featuring unique flower, horticulture, photography, and art exhibits which is free to the public. Each division will have a People’s Choice Award so make sure you stop by The Bascom to vote for your favorite flower arrangement and photograph!

This fantastic festival will culminate with a benefactor party on Sunday evening, July 13, at The Farm at Old Edwards Inn, featuring award winning cuisine of Chef Johannes Klapdohr, and music by Liquid Pleasure. For more information about Mountains in Bloom, go to www.mountainsinbloom.com or call 828-526-4949.

This fundraiser for The Bascom ensures that the unique education, exhibition, and community outreach. The Bascom is a registered 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, and the mission is to bring art and culture into the community and to support other nonprofit organizations. For more information about The Bascom’s Outreach Program, go to www.thebascom.org/outreach-programs.
Mountains in Bloom
HOME ~ GARDEN ~ FLOWERS

The Private Edens of Highlands

THURSDAY, JULY 10
Private Edens: Lessons in Creating Your Own Garden; Champagne Luncheon at Highlands Falls Country Club with guest speaker Jack Staub, owner of historic Hortulus Farm in Wrightstown, PA

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JULY 11-12
Home and Garden Tour illustrating the heart, home and horticulture that elevate a home to a personal space of respite, comfort and beauty
Flower Show – An array of photography and flower displays throughout the art gallery
Farm to Table Luncheon – Local bounty with food and art demonstrations and a fashion show

SUNDAY, JULY 13
Benefactor Celebration at The Farm at Old Edwards Inn featuring the award winning cuisine of Chef Johannes Klapdohr and music by Liquid Pleasure

For more info, check out
The Bascom/Events at mountainsinbloom.com 828-526-4949
By Dr. Curtis Fussell
Co-Pastor, First Presbyterian Church

I recently participated in a group that meets regularly at The Ugly Dog Pub on Tuesdays where we discuss Christian short stories. Our reading was a story titled, “Loud Lake,” by Mary Kenagy.

In this story an incident took place involving a 12-year-old boy named Pete who lived with his parents at a lake where his father directed a Christian camp. The story tells an event in Pete's life as he seeks to separate himself from his father to express his own character. Pete admires his father and he's an obedient son, but Pete disagrees with an activity his father conducts at the camp. It's called “Fourth Night Bonfire.” At this event Pete's father uses the dramatic flames and shadows of a bonfire to get young campers to accept Jesus.

In the final scene, Pete is out sailing on Loud Lake when he sees someone paddling a camp canoe. It's Meg, one of the participants at the camp. When Pete catches up to Meg's canoe, she tells Pete she's trying to escape the camp to go back home. Pete tricks Meg so he can grab the rope on the canoe to pull her back to the camp.

As Pete is pulling Meg back to the camp, she angrily says to Pete, “You’re just like your father.” Pete wants to tell her all the ways he's not like his father but instead he says, “I'm not like anyone.”

At that moment a large group of crows flies overhead. Pete tilts his head so that all he can see is sky and crows. Then suddenly, he feels something moving over the water around him and Meg, right alongside their boats, like the wind but not the wind. Pete wants to look, but feels sure that if he does, whatever it is will disappear. Suddenly, Pete remembers his father saying that “God is relentless, that God is always to paddle away from the camp. Pete turns his boat towards his father saying that “God is not like anyone,” who would try to manipulate people into being a follower. Several people noted that Jesus never pushed anyone into following him. On the contrary, Jesus often said things that discouraged people not to follow him. No doubt then, “It's a strange God we follow, but this God’s ‘real.’”

William Willimon notes in his book, “Why Jesus?” that Jesus is a vagabond who is constantly on the move and that Jesus does not appeal to people who are at ease with themselves here, now, in this place; much like Pete in relation to his father and his bonfire. Instead, Jesus comes to where people are and rarely leaves them as they were. People are converted in thought and life by the adventure of Jesus’ love. Above all, people are invited to become traveling companions with him and to have a hunger for this strange but real God they meet in Jesus.

Footnote: William Willimon is preaching on Sunday, July 27 and lecturing Monday, July 28 at First Presbyterian, focusing on “Why Jesus?” You are welcome to attend.
Highlands PD log entries from June 16. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

**June 16**
- At 11:45 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at the Mountain Brook Suites parking lot.
- At 12:25 p.m., officers responded to a call about a patron who dropped marijuana on the counter at the Farmers Market. Officers are investigating the case.

**June 19**
- At 4:54 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 106.
- At 12:25 p.m., officers responded to a call about a patron who dropped marijuana on the counter at the Farmers Market. Officers are investigating the case.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from June 25

**June 25**
- At 7:50 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Highlands View Road.
- At 8:30 p.m., the dept. stood by for the MAMA helicopter at the Hospital landing pad.
- At 9 p.m., the dept. responded to a call about an illegal burn on US 64 east.

**June 26**
- At 6:13 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Broadview Circle Road.

**June 28**
- At 10:11 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Oak Street.

**June 29**
- At 9:07 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Highlands Plaza.

**June 30**
- At 10:36 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

**July 1**
- At 10:33 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Big Bearpen Drive.
- At 3:26 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Brushy Face Road.
- At 2:21 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers.

**July 2**
- At 9:19 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sequoyah Woods Road.

**July 3**
- At 4:11 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.
- At 1:31 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on N. 4th. St.

**July 4**
- At 9:37 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east at the county line.

**July 5**
- At 1:17 p.m., the dept. provided traffic control at a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.
- At 3:23 p.m., the dept. provided traffic control at a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

**July 7**
- At 3:47 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS.
- At 3:59 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance on US 64 east.

**NOTE:** When approached by emergency vehicles, pull to the right and stop. Please do not keep moving. This is a danger to you and the emergency workers.

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